(d) if not, the details of Government's efforts made to popularize non-conventional energy in remote areas, particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The aim is to add around 10 percent additional power generation capacity to be set up in the country during the 10th and 11th Plan periods through renewables of which 3% is expected from bio-energy.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Over 8000 MW grid-interactive renewable power generation capacity has already been set up in the country as on 31.3.2006. Of this, around 4650 MW has been added during the first 4 years of the 10th Plan period against the Plant target of 3075 MW. Nonetheless, to popularize deployment of renewable energy financial and fiscal incentives are being provided that include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, concessional duties and relief from taxes. In addition, preferential tariff is given to grid interactive renewable power in most potential States. Publicity and awareness on the use of renewable energy systems/ devices is also created through print, postal and electronic media and special events like the Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas are being organised. District-level Advisory Committees have been constituted in States to facilitate effective coordination of renewable energy schemes/programmes.

Major activities of the Ministry

3106. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major activities of his Ministry in the last five years; and

(b) in what way the schemes of his Ministry would be for general well-being of the nation in general, and those living near the ocean in particular?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The major various activities of the Ministry taken up during the last five years are broadly divided into two major categories *viz.*, Programmes of Societal benefit of coastal population and Programmes of national interests. These include (i) Development of Desalination Technology, (ii) Lobster technology, (iii) Potential Fishing zone advisories, (iv) Ocean State Forecast, (v) Early Tsunami Warning System, (vi) Marine Living Resources, (vii) Coastal Zone Management, (viii) Coastal marine pollution.

While the programmes of national interests include (i) indigenous development of buoys, (ii) strengthen of buoy network, (iii) networking for polar research, (iv) extraction metal from nodules, (v) metallurgy for nodules, (vi) technology for nodules and gas hydrates, (vii) consultancy projects, (viii) Drugs from the sea, (ix) strengthen basic research.

(b) The way these schemes/programmes, that have been contributing to well-being of the nation in general and those living near the ocean, are as follows:

Societal benefit of coastal population are (i) Development and demonstration of desalination technology to cater to the needs of freshwater in coastal States and island territories of India, (ii) development and transfer of technology of lobster and crab fattening for the benefit of smaller fisherman community, (iii) providing of Potential Fishing Advisories to fisherman living in the coastal areas of India and island territories, (iv) Ocean State forecast for various stake holders *viz.*, offshore structures, naval operations, shipping, (v) set up interim early tsunami and storm surge warning system to provide warning to the coastal population, (vi) Conducting multi-disciplinary studies to assess the Marine Living Resources in the Indian seas, and to understand a large scale variation of fishery resources, (vii) Development of shoreline management plans in selected coastal sensitive areas and establishment of marine ecotoxicology, (viii) continued systematic monitoring coastal pollution to assess the health of the coastal seas of India.

The programmes of national interests are (i) indigenous development of buoys, tide gauges to meet the requirement, (ii) strengthening of ocean observing network by deployment of state-of-the-art technology data buoys and Argo floats, to operational weather forecast and climate variability studies, (iii) networking of institutions for conducting polar research, (iv) establishment of metallurgical pilot plant with a capacity of 500 kg per day to extract Copper, nickel and cobalt from nodules. (v) establishment of pilot plant for production of Ferro-silico-manganese from the residue produced from 500 kg plant, (vi) design, development and demonstration of remotely operated vehicle for 6000 metre to provide service for gas hydrate sampling at 2000—3000m depth inspection sampling development and testing of shallow water crawler at 500m depth, (vii) construction of Dyke at Haldia port, consultancy services to Sethusamudram and Kalpasar projects, (viii) launch of clinical trials two potential drugs (antidiabetic and antihyperlepedemic, from the marine organisms, and (ix) strengthened basic research through setting up of a network of Ocean Science and Technology Cells.